

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 were previously pending in this patent application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 13-15, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31, and 32 stand rejected. Claims 2, 5, 16-21, 23, 24, 27, 29, and 30 are objected to. Claims 6-12 and 33-37 have been allowed. Herein, Claims 1, 13, 22, and 28 have been amended. Accordingly, after this Amendment and Response, Claims 1-37 remain pending in this patent application. Further examination and reconsideration in view of the claims, remarks, and arguments set forth below is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4, 13-15, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lipasti, U.S. Patent No. 6,487,639 (hereafter Lipasti). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It was stated that Dependent Claim 2, which depends from base Claim 1, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Herein, the base Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of Dependent Claim 2, which has been canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claim 1 is not anticipated by Lipasti and is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 3-4 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 1, which is allowable over Lipasti. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that

Dependent Claims 3-4 are patentable over Lipasti for the reasons discussed above.

It was stated that Dependent Claim 16, which depends from base Claim 13, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Herein, the base Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of Dependent Claim 16, which has been canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claim 13 is not anticipated by Lipasti and is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 14-15 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 13, which is allowable over Lipasti. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 14-15 are patentable over Lipasti for the reasons discussed above.

It was stated that Dependent Claim 23, which depends from base Claim 22, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Herein, the base Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of Dependent Claim 23, which has been canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that

Independent Claim 22 is not anticipated by Lipasti and is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 25-26 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 22, which is allowable over Lipasti. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 25-26 are patentable over Lipasti for the reasons discussed above.

It was stated that Dependent Claim 29, which depends from base Claim 28, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Herein, the base Claim 28 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of Dependent Claim 29, which has been canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claim 28 is not anticipated by Lipasti and is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 31-32 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 28, which is allowable over Lipasti. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 31-32 are patentable over Lipasti for the reasons discussed above.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the above claims, arguments, and remarks overcome all rejections. All remaining claims (Claims 1, 3-15, 17-22, 24-28, and 30-37) are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited references. For at least the above-presented reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims (Claims 1, 3-15, 17-22, 24-28, and 30-37) are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

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